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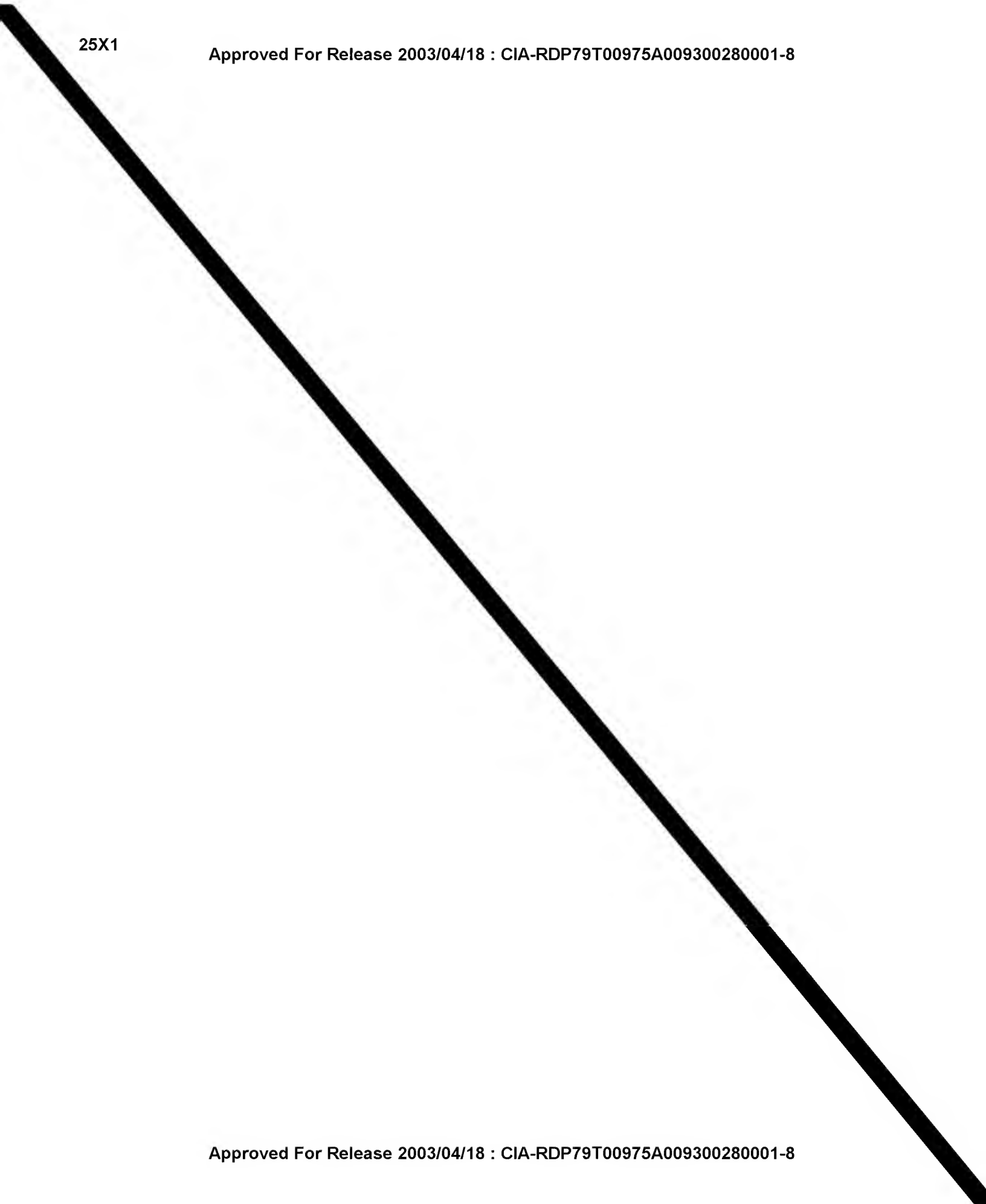

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3. Israel-Syria: Another serious incident could precipitate Israeli retaliatory strike against Syria. (Page 4)

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Israel-Syria: Israel probably considers that it has exhausted peaceful international means for stopping Syrian-supported terrorist raids into Israel, and another serious incident almost certainly would precipitate an Israeli retaliatory strike against Syria.

The US defense attaché in Tel Aviv reports that Israel's over-all readiness remains above normal. An Israeli attack against Syria would probably involve air strikes, possibly accompanied by ground action.

Israel took its complaint to the UN Security Council four weeks ago, and has refrained from military retaliation while the debate was in progress. There have been ten more sabotage incidents in Israel in the interim, in addition to recurrent clashes at the border between Israeli and Syrian armed forces.

A six-nation resolution inviting Syria to take steps to prevent incidents has been vetoed by the USSR, and the Israelis would probably not consider a proposed mild "consensus" statement by the Security Council meaningful at this point.

Syria and Egypt on 4 November signed a joint defense pact committing each signatory "to come to the aid of the other if it is a victim of aggression." Nasir, however, with about 40,000 troops in Yemen, would not welcome a fight with Israel at this time. He therefore probably hopes he can restrain Syria from actions which would provoke the Israelis.

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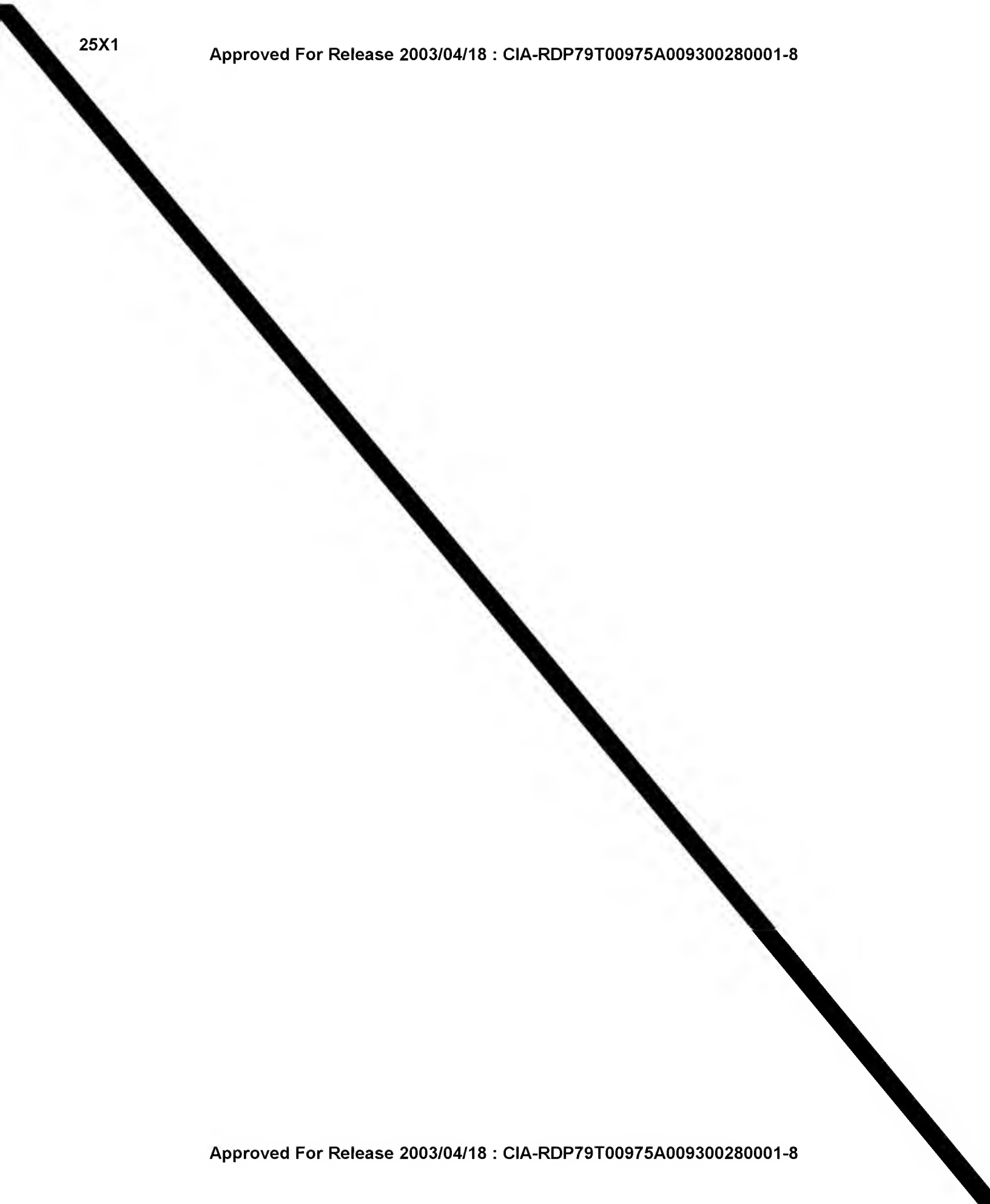

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